



St Oliver's Primary School

# Newsletter

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Term 1 , Week 2

<http://www.stoliversharrisparke.catholic.edu.au/home>

2nd February 2017

## Welcome Message

Dear Families of St. Oliver's,

Welcome back to a new school year. I pray you all had a joyful Christmas followed by a chance to relax and enjoy some quality time with family and friends.

I look forward to 2017 with great optimism and enthusiasm. We have a number of new members of staff and a highly professional and passionate team of educators working with the children this year.

We have had a very positive start to the new school year! The children have settled well into their new classes and are pleased to be back at school. As I have moved around to each of the classes this week I have been inspired by the positive attitude to learning the children are demonstrating. It is a truly wonderful thing!

As parents, you are the first educators of your children and they look to you to form their attitudes, opinions and values. Your child's education can be greatly enhanced by your involvement at home and in school activities. It is a parent's enthusiasm and support that can inspire a child to do their best. If children sense that parents consider their child's education to be a high priority, they are likely to view it in a positive manner themselves.

At the beginning of a new school year we extend an extra special welcome to our new students and families. Yesterday we welcomed our new Kinders. They have had a great start to their journey here at St. Oliver's. The following children also started in other grades in our school. We welcome them as members of our faith and learning community; Zaq B, Kaitlyn C, Sofia F, Elijah F, Angelique A, Christian A, Mandy C and Ruiz B.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the children for returning to school looking very smart in their full school uniform, with positive attitudes and respectful manners.

God bless,

Barbara Young  
Principal

**IMPORTANT SCHOOL INFORMATION PLEASE KEEP THIS NEWSLETTER HANDY FOR 2017**

**School Newsletter**

The newsletter is uploaded to our website, to the skoolbag app and a hard copy will be sent home to the eldest child in the family on a Thursday. Alternatively you can register on our website to have the newsletter emailed to you.

**SKOOLBAG APP**

Skoolbag is a mobile app that communicates directly to parents smartphones. It allows the school to keep you up to date with the latest news, notices, alerts, newsletters etc. The Skoolbag app is free to download. Keep up to date. Download it today.

Search **St Oliver's Primary skoolbag** in your app store on your phone.

**SICK BAY/MEDICATIONS**

If you child/children are required to take medication throughout the day you must complete a medication request form. These are available in the office. Please send a note to your child's class teacher to make sure they are sent to the office at the allocated time for medicine. All children must come to the office to receive medication. *Asthma puffers can be kept in the child's bag. We do have spare puffers in the office in case of emergencies.*

**PAYMENTS TO THE OFFICE**

If you are sending payments to the office for school fees, excursions etc, through your child please make sure all money is in a securely sealed envelope with your child's name and class clearly marked on it. EFTPOS is available in the office for your convenience.

**BIRTHDAYS**

Due to work health and safety regulations we are unable to celebrate with cakes etc. During morning assembly your child will be called to the front and asked their name and age and will be given a sticker and birthday card. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

**COMMUNICATIONS WITH CLASS TEACHER**

If you have a concern about a matter, you first make an appointment to speak to the classroom teacher. If you still feel the need to discuss the matter further, then please contact the school office to make an appointment to speak to Ms Barbara Young, Principal or Mrs Kathryn Newman, Assistant Principal.

**SPORT DAYS**

**Kindergarten - Monday and Wednesday**  
**Stage 1 (Year 1 and Year 2) - Monday and Thursday**  
**Stage 2 (Year 3 and Year 4) - Monday and Friday**  
**Stage 3 (Year 5 and Year 6) - Monday and Thursday**

**STAGE ASSEMBLIES**

Assemblies are held on a Friday afternoon commencing at 2:30pm. For 2017 we will have two assemblies each term. These dates will be advertised in our school newsletter and on Skoolbag. All parents/carers are welcome.

**PRINCIPAL'S COFFEE AND CHAT**

Twice a term our Principal and/or Assistant Principal sets aside a morning or afternoon for parents to come along and join us for a coffee and chat. Check the diary dates each term for the scheduled Principal's Coffee and Chats. Hope to see you there.

**SCHOOL CENSUS - Friday 10th February 2017**

The Census of Catholic Schools is on Friday 10th February 2017. We ask that all children come to school on this day if possible. If you child is sick, we understand that they would need to stay at home, but please send in a note on the following Monday explaining the absence. The easiest way to advise us of your child's absence on the day is to submit an absentee form on the skoolbag app via **eforms**. **If your child is too sick to return to school on Monday, 13th February you may also email on explanation of Monday to [stolivers@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stolivers@parra.catholic.edu.au) to enable us to include your child in the Census. It is important that you quote the date of absence on your letter. Thank you for attending to the matter.**

**NUT FREE ENVIRONMENT**

Due to many of our children suffering for allergies we are a **nut free school**. Please refrain from sending any food containing nuts to school with your child. Thank you for your understanding.

**SCHOOL UNIFORM**

Our school uniform is available at Lowes, Parramatta Westfield and is also available at **Merrylands West School and Workwear Centre, 455-457 Merrylands Road MERRYLANDS phone: 02 9637 4502**. We also have some second hand uniforms available for purchase in the office. **Our school bag, hat and library bag are available for purchase from the school office.**

### PARENT VOLUNTEERS

We need and value your assistance in the learning spaces and during excursions. Please consider volunteering your time to the children. You must have done the online training to be able to help. Use this link to the child protection training.

[www.childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au/volunteers](http://www.childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au/volunteers)

Step 1: Volunteer Form

Step 2: Online training

### LUNCH BOX ITEMS

St Oliver's is a 'Healthy Schools' Community. Please monitor the kinds of food you are putting in your child's lunchbox.

We also have <https://tuckshop2u.com.au/> deliver fresh healthy lunches daily. Visit their website for the menu and to order.

### Student Safety

***The front gate will be opened on school days at 8:15am.*** Teacher supervision of children begins at 8:30am every school day.

If you need your child/children supervised before this time, COSHC is available for your convenience. ***The contact details for COSHC are: 0427 665 715***

COHSC workers are only permitted to open the school gate for families enrolled in COHSC.

### Extended Leave/Absences for Students

If you are planning any extended leave throughout the year. You will need to make an appointment with Ms Young for approval.

If your child is away for a day or more you need to send a note of explanation to your class teacher. You can also use the Skoolbag app to submit an absentee form through ***eforms***.

### St Oliver's 2017 Learning Goals

#### Religious Education

By the end of 2017 students will deepen their knowledge and understanding of all key concepts with a particular focus on God.

#### Literacy

By the end of 2017 students will improve word consciousness in reading and writing through the development of oral language.

#### Numeracy

By the end of 2017 students will develop conceptual knowledge through improved reasoning and visualisation skills.

### Attendance in 2016

Attendance Rate target is <b>90%</b> or greater.	94.2%	This figure indicates the average attendance rate for all our children.
Attendance Level target is <b>90%</b> or greater.	82%	This figure indicates the percentage of our children who attend school 90% to 100% of the time.

**Sunday's Gospel Mini Reflection : A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew:**

<p>'How happy are the poor in spirit: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.</p> 	<p>Sunday's Gospel (Matt 5:1-12) introduced the great Sermon (Sermon on the Mount, 5:1-7:29) which is the real beginning of Jesus' public ministry in the Gospel according to Matthew (Brendan Byrne SJ). This sermon which is to be known as the "Beatitudes" is one of the most familiar and beautiful texts in the gospels. It is simultaneously encouraging and challenging. For example, it is more important to be <b>gentle and merciful</b> than to have all the latest toys and gadgets. As Mercy is the face of our school this week's scripture could not be more fitting. Whatever our situation, no matter how bad things are or how sad we might be, God can and will take care of us.</p> <p>Here are some points to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Seek God; live right.</li><li>● God gives us hope.</li><li>● Christ's way is the way to happiness.</li><li>● Turn curses into blessings.</li></ul>
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<p><b>Activity</b> You may like to fill this out with your child for Matthew's Gospel this week:</p>
<p>Praise .....</p> <p>Repent.....</p> <p>Ask.....</p> <p>Yes.....</p>

**Religious Education Learning:**

**The Gospel** - As Catholics, we believe that as individuals and in community we base our lives on our relationship with Jesus and in imitation of his teaching which comes to us through the Scriptures and through the teaching authority of the Catholic Church. This is why we read the Gospel at mass, in prayer and throughout our daily readings. You have been provided a Gospel reading above. This week let's practice pondering the words of the Gospel as these words are sacred and can deepen our love for Jesus when we pray.

**Opening mass** - As we begin our new school year, we pray that Christ be our light and ask for his blessing over us during the year ahead. Our Beginning of Year Mass will take place next **Friday, 10th February at 9.15am**.

A warm welcome is extended to all parents and carers to join us for this special celebration. At the end of mass we will have the commissioning of our student leaders. Celebrations will continue in the evening with a **Welcoming Barbeque at 5:30pm** on the school playground. Invitation to follow with more details. Looking forward to seeing you there.

**Prayer Bags (Praying at home).**

Throughout Week 3 we will begin to utilise our school prayer bags again. This term will see the prayer bags cycle through various focuses. We ask that you join your child in prayer at home. Partaking in this spiritual time is a way in which you can connect and appreciate the message of Jesus and the importance of having a living, vibrant relationship with him.

Many Thanks

**Anthony Matthews / Religious Education Coordinator**